

...CLUB NEWSLETTER EST. 1947

# Southern California DX Club Newsletter

MAY 2015

The Southern California DX Club is a group of dedicated men and women active in the amateur radio community who enjoy communicating over the air with other radio amateurs around the world.

The SCDXC strongly supports the DX Code of Conduct. Please visit their website:

[www.dx-code.org](http://www.dx-code.org)

The SCDXC newsletter is published monthly and released to club members around the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be published as time and space permit.

Articles may be republished with recognition of the author and the club. Reuse of copyrighted materials require the original author's permission.

Any questions regarding this newsletter or its articles should be addressed to the Editor, Diana, AI6DF, at:

[ai6df@scdxc.org](mailto:ai6df@scdxc.org)

Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM except April, June and December.

Please check the club web site for events and details at:

<http://www.scdxc.org>

If you are in the area please say hello on our repeater:

**W6AM/R 145.48, (-) PL 100.0**



*"If you need him get in there and work him"*

## In our May 2015 issue...

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## From the Desk of the President

**George Jacob, N6VNI**  
**2015 President – SCDXC**  
[N6VNI@scdxc.org](mailto:N6VNI@scdxc.org)

Hello All.

Kris and I attended the 66th annual International DX convention in Visalia, California. Once a year Amateur Radio Operators from all over the world come to attend this convention. This year there were hams from 19 countries, some we knew and some we did not know, however with a smile on your face, and hand extended out, you can make a new friend.

As the president of the Southern California DX Club one of my duties is to be at the convention and represent the club at the banquet and present two awards. I was on pins and needles most of the day before the banquet because I had to give a short speech and make two presentations after dinner.

Dinner was in the start mode. It did not take long for a conversation to get start at our table of eight, we knew each other which it made easy to talk. The waiters started serving our table. Never had Italian food at a ham radio convention banquet before. The waiter serving me my dinner dump a hot plate of lasagna on the back of my new white shirt, tomato sauce and all. What a mess. All the ladies at the table tried their best to get me cleaned up. My shirt looked like a target used on an archery range. The end result, I had to wear the shirt. The hotel management staff offered me a bottle of white wine in return for the mishap.

From the look on my face in the picture at bottom left I was not a happy camper and the stress level was high. Eight hundred hams looking at me and I could not produce a smile, god only knows, I tried.

In the picture at right below, I presented the Clipperton award, for being the rookie of the year. Beckie Kendrick KK6FJQ was very happy and pleased to receive the Clipperton award you could see it on her face, a big smile from ear to ear, and still no smile from George. I was wondering what the people were thinking about when they saw the big red spot on the back of my shirt. Did this guy get shot?

**Continued on next page ►**



George, N6VNI



**Left photo:** George, N6VNI, speaking at the DX Convention (back side of his shirt not visible). **Right photo:** George presents the SCDXC's Clipperton Award to Beckie Kendrick, KK6FJQ, for the most confirmed DX entities during a new member's first year of membership. PHOTO CREDITS: BOB WILSON, N6TV

## From the Desk of the President

► Continued from previous page

Photo at right: SCDXC's John Schroeder, N6QQ, receives "DXer of the Year Award."

This is our top award given to the ham for the most contributions to the hobby, the club and to the amateur radio service. You can see it on John's face that he was happy to receive this award. For those of you who could not attend the convention to see it, N6QQ also won two big ticket raffle prizes.

I hope you all have enjoyed my description of the DX convention and the pictures too.

The next club meeting will be held at WEMS or better known as Mel's place on May 14th 2015 @ 7:30 P.M. The pre-meeting dinner has been such a success that I am going to make arrangements with the Sizzler Manager to set us up in the back room again. The Sizzler Restaurant is located at 17544 Hawthorne Blvd. Torrance, CA. 90504. If you get lost and need direction the phone number is 310 371 0775.

Our guest speaker at the May 14th meeting will be Joe Locascio K5KT. Joe is going to talk about changing out his antenna system. The focus of the talk is mostly about details that are not obvious when doing this kind of project. It will be a good, practical talk, almost all of us could benefit from.

Until the next time, 73 De

George N6VNI



## Vice President's Corner

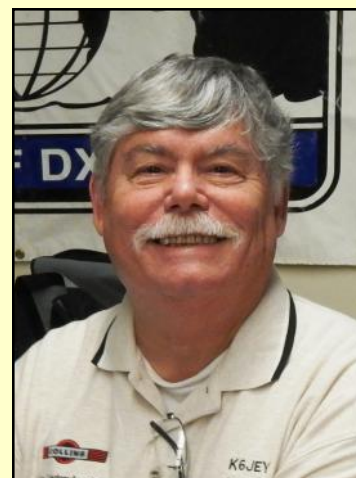
**Doug Millar, K6JEY**  
**2015 SCDXC Vice President**  
[drzarkof56@yahoo.com](mailto:drzarkof56@yahoo.com)

I had a great time in Visalia and hope others did as well. I was able to confirm that Eric from Elecraft will be here for our November meeting to speak.

Please send me shack pictures to show at the break and bring in any microphones you want to show off. Thanks to Jerry for bringing in some excellent collector's items.

If you have a topic you would like to see done as a presentation or have a contact for one, let me know. Always looking for good speakers.

73,  
Doug K6JEY ♦



Doug, K6JEY



## Yes, “Stuff Happens” With DXing and DXpeditions

**Diana Feinberg, AI6DF**  
**Editor – SCDXC Newsletter**

When former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld famously explained in 2003 that “stuff happens” while operating in distant places he probably wasn’t thinking of ham radio.

But unexpected things happen during DXpeditions, propagation conditions can take strange turns, and even a Newsletter can experience some changes.

Two DXpeditions in April 2015 certainly experienced the unexpected.

As the TX5P Clipperton Island mini-DXpedition (Alain, F6BFH) reported through the DX Coffee website, “Life on the island is very tough. The weather is unstable with heavy tropical rain showers and with strong and frequent storms. Last night, the antennas were destroyed by the wind and then repaired. The field is managed by the military, with groups working at night, so radio operation is limited. The expedition members appreciate our radio activity, as a communication support.” (Most of this “expedition” is actually a scientific one.)

The April 14-20 DX0P Spratly Islands DXpedition team found itself challenged with the unexpected: a medical evacuation. DX0P team member Chito, WW6CP, developed a kidney problem believed caused by high saline levels in Pagasa Island’s drinking water after the team’s bottled water supply ran out. His evacuation was delayed several days due to difficulties arranging emergency air transport and several military-related issues.

The DX0P team in five days made 5,036 contacts (55% RTTY), of which only 8% were with North America. Asian stations comprised 62% and European stations 23% of total DX0P QSOs. Propagation was difficult to North America due to a sizable geomagnetic disturbance during part of the DXpedition. Spotting networks reported very weak signals from DX0P to the U.S. West Coast.

Other DXpeditions have had harrowing moments with weather or bad propagation too. Yes, “stuff happens” in the pursuit for DX so let’s appreciate the time, costs, and risks DXpeditioners undertake to enable our passion.



**Not quite the MV Braveheart:** The DX0P Spratly Islands DXpedition team reached Pagasa Island aboard the Philippine Navy ship BRP Apolinario Mabini. Getting off the island took a very different turn after a team member required medical evacuation. PHOTO: DX0P DXPEDITION



**It looks calm now:** Clipperton Island is shown in a tranquil photo, but a strong storm damaged antennas used by Alain, F6BFH, during his recent DXpedition. PHOTO: WWW.DXNEWS.COM/TX5P-CLIPPERTON

Closer to home, even radio club newsletters can have “stuff happening.” As mentioned last month, we’re aiming to reduce our bandwidth and keep each issue at 22 pages or less. Our tables of member DX standings (WAZ/DXCC and ClubLog) will be published separately on a quarterly basis, with Get Schroeder Contest rankings published bimonthly.

Lastly, it’s worth noting that “stuff happening” can have a positive outcome too. At the 2015 International DX Convention our member Chip N6CA won the complete Elecraft K3 station with matching pa-nadapter and amplifier. Congratulations, Chip! ♦

## Scenes from the 2015 International DX Convention, April 17-19

**Right:** Several members  
of the TX3X Chesterfield  
Group: Ross, K6GFJ;  
SCDXC member Arnie, N6HC;  
Gene, K5GS; Les, W2LK;  
and Tom, ND2T.  
PHOTO: BOB WILSON, N6TV



**Left:** The Contest Academy  
on Friday, April 17.  
PHOTO: BOB WILSON, N6TV

**Right:** (l-r) Guy, KS6F;  
SCDXC members Cathy,  
K6VC, and Carl, WU6D;  
and Patsy, KJ6GKS.  
PHOTO: BOB WILSON, N6TV







The Ladies' excursion group prepares to head on their Saturday adventure. SCDXC member Sharon, K6IRD, is at far left. PHOTO: BOB WILSON, N6TV

## Scenes from the 2015 International DX Convention



Beverly, WA6BK (back row, 2nd from left) with her new Technicians (9 to 10 years old) from Dorothy Grant Elementary School in Fontana, CA. Donations from SCDXC members enabled the students to attend this year's IDXC. Noted DXer Dave, K3LP, was raised in Fontana and also supports this school's amateur radio programs.

PHOTO: BOB WILSON, N6TV

**Bonsoir:** (l-r) SCDXC member Ray, N6HE; Sebastien, F5UFX; Elisabeth; and Michel, FM5CD, at one of the Friday special-interest dinners.

PHOTO: BOB WILSON, N6TV



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## The IDXC's Saturday night banquet always has a full house

**Right:** Grade school students from Dorothy Grant Elementary in Fontana make their way to the dais. The prize ticket drum is on the left, with SCDXC President George, N6VNI, at right.  
PHOTO: BOB WILSON, N6TV



**Below:** Panorama view of Saturday Night Banquet in the Visalia Convention Center.  
PHOTO: BOB WILSON, N6TV





## Still more on Sunday....and prizes to be won.

**Top:** Back at the Convention Center for Sunday breakfast after the Saturday night banquet.

**Center:** K1N Navassa team members Glen, W0GJ; John, W2GD; and John, K6MM, speak on Sunday.

**Bottom left:** SCDXC member Chip, N6CA, wins the 2015 Convention's Grand Prize: a complete Elecraft K3 station, including P3 panadapter and KPA500 amplifier. Elecraft's Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ (right) congratulates Chip.

**Bottom right:** SCDXC member Will, K6ND, won an InLogis Pixel RF Magnetic Loop antenna.

ALL PHOTOS: BOB WILSON, N6TV

**See you next year in Visalia.**





## Tidbits...

### Field Checking of QSL Cards by N6QQ and N6HC

QSL cards for new DXCC awards and endorsements may be checked by an approved DXCC Card Checker. This program applies to any DXCC award for an individual or station. Awards available can be found in Section I: Basic Rules, [Rule 1](#).

#### 1) Entities Eligible for Field Checking:

Except for 160 meters, cards for all current and deleted entities dating back to November 15, 1945 can be checked. Cards for 160 Meters can only be checked by card checkers who currently hold an active 160 Meter DXCC. Check out the complete list of [DXCC 160 Meter Card Checkers](#).

#### CQ AWARDS...

CQ Awards except 160 Meter WAZ, Digital WAZ, 6 Meter, Satellite, EME and 5BWAZ endorsements and new 5BWAZ applications with 170 or more zones.

Both Arnie, N6HC, and John, N6QQ, can check cards. If you live in Orange County, Arnie would be happy to check cards for both ARRL and CQ. If you would like to contact N6QQ, call 562-404-1112 or [n6qq@msn.com](mailto:n6qq@msn.com) ♦

### SCDXC's annual Summer Picnic is Sunday, June 14

Mark your calendar for the **SCDXC's Summer Picnic on Sunday, June 14, 2015, from 11:00 am+ in Woodley Area Park's Grove 1** near the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in "Van Nuys-adjacent". This is the same area as previous SCDXC June picnics with plenty of shade trees. We'll have a menu of hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs provided by the club; plus numerous side dishes provided by SCDXC members. More info to follow in the Newsletter's June issue. ♦

#### Next SCDXC Board Meeting, May 9

The next SCDXC Board of Directors meeting is Saturday, May 9, at 10:00 am in the home of George and Kris Jacob, 1901 W. El Portal Drive, La Habra, CA 90631. Members are welcome. ♦

### Enhanced messaging on the W6AM repeater

*By Mel Hughes, K6SY*

New voice announcements and station ID's were recently added to the SCDXC's W6AM repeater. The system now has the ability to play announcements of lengths from 10 seconds through 75 seconds at various times of the day and various days of the week.

The initial announcements include 10-second Good Morning, Good Afternoon, and Good Evening messages using speakers with native languages of Danish, Russian and Tagalog followed with station ID by a native English speaker.

These messages are scheduled to play on the hour from 6:00 AM to 11:00PM as long as the repeater has been unused for ten seconds. If the repeater is in use the message will try to play for five minutes. If the repeater has no 10-second off period during that 5 minute window it will try again in one hour.

A second 30-second message about upcoming events plays during the commute times, Monday through Saturday at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 AM, 12:30 PM, and 3:30, 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 PM. These messages do not play on Sundays.

All messages will be off during major contests. DX Alert messages will remain as in the past.

Additional messages can be accommodated as required in time increments of 10, 13, 20, 23, 30, 32, 33, 42, 43, 52, 62, and 75 seconds on 1-7 days per week, at times deemed appropriate.

The system is controlled by a programmable ladder logic microprocessor and uses MFJ Voice Keyers as the voice storage mechanism.

Your feedback about the system is encouraged and welcomed. ♦

## More Tidbits...

### Next year's International DX Convention dates set

The 67th annual International DX Convention will be held **April 15-17, 2016**, in Visalia, CA. The Southern California DX Club sponsors the 2016 convention and we'll soon be staffing various committees to handle all aspects. The first 2016 convention planning meeting is expected to be in August (date to be announced).

Hotel reservations for the 2016 convention can be made starting at 10:00 am on June 8, 2015. Reservation instructions will be posted soon on our club website and reported in next month's SCDXC Newsletter. ♦

### New use for familiar CQ?

Your SCDXC Newsletter editor noticed while at Ham Radio Outlet-Anaheim on April 20th that a 10-meter SSB "Beacon of the South" has become a useful tool in amateur radio marketing.

A newer ham came in to shop for a 10-meter antenna but advised 10-meter SSB had been "up and down" all month. To show him differences between horizontal and vertical 10-meter antennas a store salesperson turned an HF radio's VFO to, where else: "CQ, CQ, this is Kilo Charlie Four Tango Victor Zulu." The store's horizontal antenna was quieter than the vertical, but the horizontal beam still had considerable noise. The familiar voice-keyer CQ thus provides a reliable "A-B" comparison.

It's always nice to hear a silver-lining to a story. Though 28.425 MHz is not an official beacon frequency, this amateur operator northeast of Atlanta does provide for perceptual benchmarks of 10-meter propagation and SSB signal quality from the southeastern states to the West Coast.

As most know, the ARRL band plan places 10-meter beacon frequencies between 28.200 and 28.300 MHz. ♦

### Upcoming contests, and a postal rate hike

*By John Schroeder, N6QQ*

#### Three contests of note this month:

- ARI International DX Contest, May 2-3; SSB/CW/RTTY
- Volta WW RTTY Contest, May 9-10; RTTY; 48th Allesandro Volta
- CQ WW WPX CW Contest, May 30-31; CW; last big contest of the Spring season

#### U.S. postage rates up again

The U.S. Postal Service has announced yet another increase in rates, effective April 26, 2015.

While First Class letters will not change from 49 cents for the first ounce, additional ounces will increase from 21 to 22 cents each. The rate for postcards rises to 35 cents from 34 cents.

Air Mail (or letters to "All International Destinations") will increase to \$1.20 per ounce, up from \$1.15. ♦

### We say again: Next SCDXC meeting is Thursday, May 14th

Just a reminder: Our next club meeting is Thursday, May 14, at WEMS, Inc., 4650 W. Rosecrans Ave., Hawthorne, CA. Speaking at this meeting is Joe Locascio, K5KT, about his QTH antenna system and recent changes he made.

Also, a number of club members have dinner before the meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant, 17544 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance starting around 5:30 pm. The SCDXC contingent meets in a side room at this Sizzler location.

Hope to see you on May 14th—keep in mind there's no regular meeting in June at WEMS. Instead we'll hold our annual picnic on Sunday, June 14, at the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area. ♦



## More DX Tidbits...

### Palmyra Atoll DXpedition planned for January 2016

A DXpedition to Palmyra Atoll was announced on April 18 at the DX Convention in Visalia. Palmyra (KH5-P) ranks in the top ten on the Most Wanted List and #2 in Europe.

After many months of negotiations with US Fish and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy, the Palmyra Island DXpedition Group has been awarded permission to activate Cooper Island in the Palmyra Atoll during January 2016.

Co-leader Craig, K9CT, is a veteran of many of the "Most Wanted" DXpeditions. He co-led Sint Maarten and Swains DXpeditions and operated from Conway Reef, Midway, Cocos Island, Wake Atoll and Amsterdam Island. Co-leader Lou, N2TU, was a member of the Swains Team and led the Wake Atoll Commemoration. Craig and Lou also operated in the recent Navassa Island K1N DXpedition.

The Palmyra team consists of 12 highly experienced operators and veterans of many DXpeditions. Team members include Craig K9CT, Lou N2TU, Jerry WB9Z, Tom ND2T, Mike K9NW, Ralph K0IR, John K6MM, Bob K4UEE, Hal W8HC, Dick W3OA, Jim N9TK, and Glenn W0GJ.

They plan to operate five stations over a 14 day period, 160 to 6 meters on all modes, using a callsign to be announced at a later date.

Critical to major DXpeditions are the immediate, up-front commitment costs. INDEXA and NCDXF have already provided generous support for Palmyra 2016.

Logistical support for this operation is being provided by Kimo, KH7U and Don, N1DG. Joe, W8GEX and Janet, W8CAA have volunteered to assist the team in fund raising. Their experience in this area is highly valued.

Their website, [Palmyra2016.org](http://Palmyra2016.org), developed by team member John K6MM, will provide updates as they become available. The Donation page of the website is currently active. The group will also have an OQRS link on the website for easy QSLing. ♦

### Additional SCDXC Information

#### Treasurer's Report

Club financial information is available on request. Contact the Treasurer.

#### Officer Guidelines

The SCDXC's Officers Guidelines are available on our website. See hyperlink below.

#### Code of Conduct

SCDXC endorses the [DX Code of Conduct](#)

#### Membership

SCDXC membership is open to all radio amateurs interested in DXing. Full Membership is only available to those residing in 11 Southern California counties who have earned DXCC or WAZ. Associate Members are also welcomed.

Dues are \$24 annually (+\$6 for each additional family member.) An application form appears in this newsletter and on our website. For additional membership information and information about the SCDXC visit our website at:

<http://www.scdxc.org/membership.html>

### VK0EK DXpedition plans visit at Kerguelen Island

The VK0EK Heard Island DXpedition received news that permission was granted to also visit the French island of Kerguelen, 250 nautical miles NNW of Heard Island.

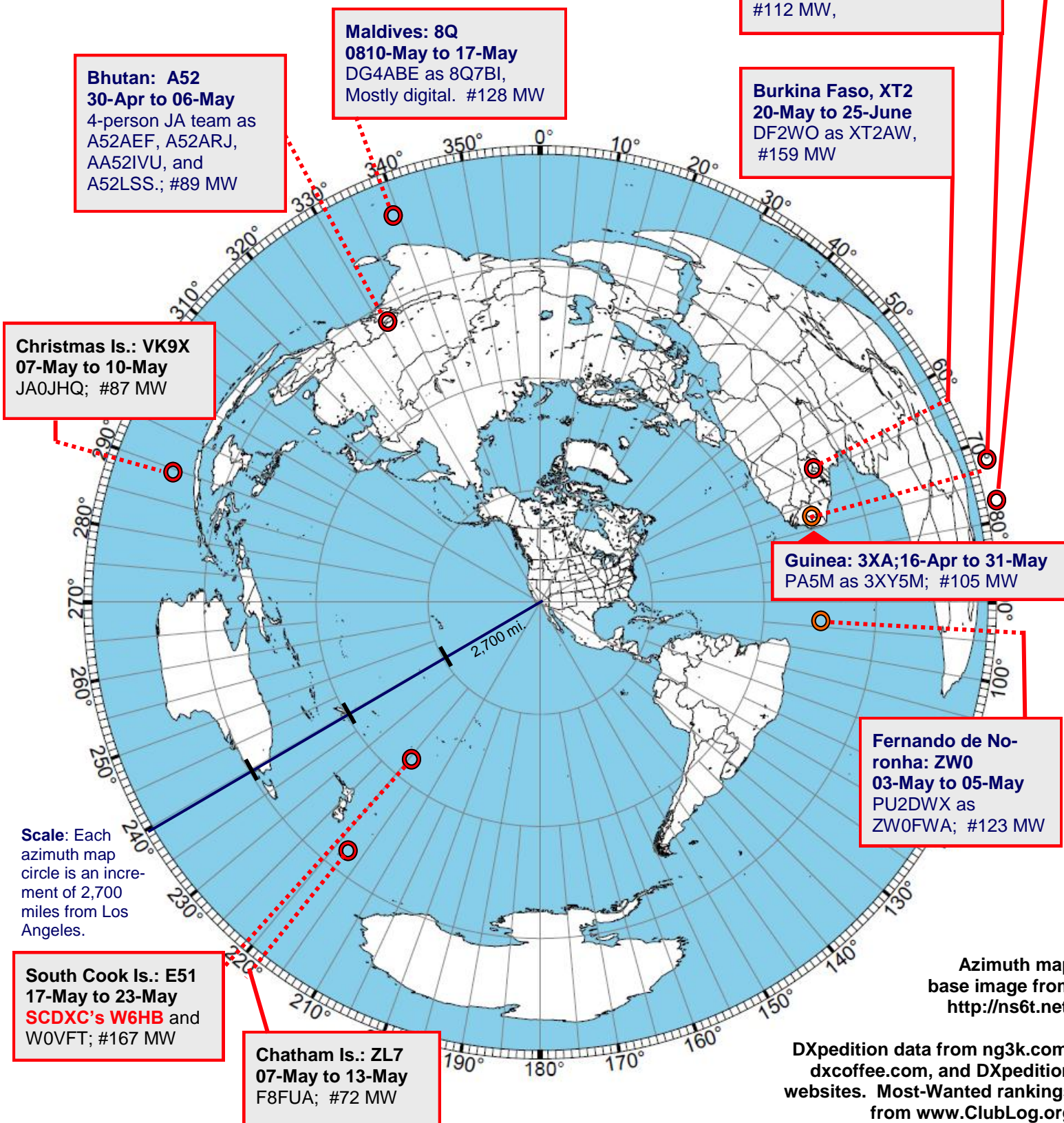
This visit will be made after concluding operations at Heard Island. It is not determined whether a radio operation will be authorized on Kerguelen but the team is pursuing that possibility.

The last DXpedition to Kerguelen was in 2005. ♦

# DXpeditions in May 2015 are not to rarest of places, but still wanted by many hams

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF

Here are some DXpeditions in May 2015, chosen by their ranking on ClubLog's "Most-Wanted" list.





# SCDXC Members' WAZ / DXCC Standings

## SCDXC Member Recent DXing Achievements

### Awards:

**Jonathan Fox, KT6LA**, earned 5-Band DXCC in late March just after our April Newsletter was completed. He finally went over the top on 80-meters. Congratulations, Jonathan.

### Department of "Better-Late-Than- Never" QSLs:

Your Newsletter Editor **AI6DF** was pleasantly surprised to recently get an LoTW confirmation with ZL7AAA (Chatham Island) 13 months after the 15-meter SSB QSO. AI6DF had given up on an LoTW QSL with that station, but thank you very much at last.

Have you received an award or "better-late-than-never" QSL recently? Let fellow SCDXC members hear about it.

Send your information to: [ai6df@scdxc.org](mailto:ai6df@scdxc.org) ♦

### WAZ STANDINGS

	10B / 5B	Awards
K6ND	378 / 200	M/5
W6SR	373 / 200	M/P/C//5
WA5VGI	357 / 200	M/P/C/5
W8DX	357 / 200	M/5
N6AW	355 / 200	M/P/C/5
K6YRA	290 / 200	P/5
W6BCQ	280 / 200	M/P/5
W6VX	352 / 199	
NS6C	198 / 198	
K6G XO	369 / 197	M
K6FG	363 / 197	M/P/C/
R/5		
SM5GMZ	349 / 196	M/P/C
W6ENZ	315 / 195	
AI6Z	320 / 194	M/P/C/5
N6MXU	155 / 193	
K6YUI	349 / 192	M/P/C/
R/5		
N6RV	317 / 189	M/P/C
KC6X	294 / 187	M/P/C/5
N6QQ	325 / 186	M/P/C/R
K6LD	314 / 186	M/P/C
W6YOO	308 / 185	M/P/C/5
K6KII	191 / 177	M
K0OK	286 / 173	
K6SY	246 / 173	P
W6ZPL	237 / 173	M/P
KJ6Y	261 / 172	
KR6C	295 / 171	M/C
SM5GMZ	265 / 166	M/5
N6DHZ	234 / 161	P
W6DR	227 / 159	
NK6A	152 / 152	M/5
N6HE	130 / 138	
KT6LA	155 / 125	
K6IRD	154 / 126	M/P
W3SE	102 / 112	
W6IRD	151 / 111	M/P
K6VC	96 / 96	P
W6EA	92 / 86	
K7LA	111 / 84	
KA6TTV	82 / 67	
N6VNI	86 / 64	
Unduplicated Zones (max. 40):		
K6JW	40 / 40	M/P
K6YR	39 / 39	
W6DOE	39 / 39	
NZ6L	36 / 36	
AI6DF	27 / 26	
KK6FJQ	25 / 25	
N6AWD		M
N6HC		M/P/C
W6OES		M
K8RD		C

*Please report updates or corrections to your Newsletter Editor at: [ai6df@scdxc.org](mailto:ai6df@scdxc.org). The above standings are after recently eliminating former members and Silent Keys from our club's current lists. If we made a mistake let us know.*

### DXCC STANDINGS

K6KII	387 / 340
JA1BK	377 / 338
K6YRA	376 / 340
K6EXO	370 / 338
W6BCQ	365 / 340
K6YUI	365 / 340
K6IPV	362 / 340
NS6C	360 / 340
W6HT	358 / 338
W6SR	358 / 340
WA6WZO	357 / 340
K8RD	356 / 340
K5KT	355 / 340
N6AW	355 / 337
K6FG	355 / 340
K6G XO	355 / 340
N6RV	355 / 339
W8DX	353 / 340
W6IRD	352 / 336
W6OES	351 / 334
W6AUG	350 / 340
N6QQ	350 / 334
W6OU	350 / 332
W6YOO	349 / 340
KC6X	349 / 340
W6KK	348 / 340
W6VX	348 / 340
WA5VGI	348 / 340
N6AWD	348 / 338
AI6Z	348 / 336
K6ND	347 / 340
N6HC	345 / 337
KR6C	343 / 338
SM5GMZ	339 / 330
W6BK	337 / 334
KM6HB	337 / 331
N6HY	333 / 329
K2IXQ	333 / 329
W6FL	328 / 315
KJ6Y	327 / 323
W6ZPL	317 / 317
K6SY	312 / 310
K0OK	310 / 308
K6JW	309 / 304
N6GP	308 / 303
W6HB	303 / 295

(continued on right)

### DXCC STANDINGS

(continued)

N6MXU	301 / 297
NK6A	295 / 270
N6DHZ	292 / 288
W6DR	282 / 278
WA6W XD	275 / 272
K7MY	272 / 270
K6VC	267 / 264
KT6LA	264 / 262
K6IRD	260 / 250
W3SE	240 / 237
W6DOE	236 / 234
N6VNI	223 / 223
KN6VF	223 / 223
ZL3TE	222 / 220
W6WVW	206 / 204
N6HE	192 / 185
W6EA	152 / 152
K6DDJ	152 / 152
KA6TTV	149 / 149
W6QE	148 / 148
K7LA	140 / 140
N6CA	131 / 131*
KK6FJQ	123 / 123
AI6DF	78 / 78
NZ6L	27 / 27

*Please report updates or corrections to your Newsletter Editor at: [ai6df@scdxc.org](mailto:ai6df@scdxc.org)*

*The above standings reflect recently eliminating former members and Silent Keys from our club's current lists.*

### In Next Month's SCDXC Newsletter:

#### The "Get Schroeder" Contest standings.

If you wish to be included be sure to sign up with ClubLog (if not already) and upload your logbook ADIF.

# Propagation Report


By: Diana Feinberg, AI6DF


I thank Bill Kendrick, N6RV, for having written the Propagation Report in previous SCDXC Newsletters. Now it's up to me, so here it is.

As most probably noticed, geomagnetic storms cursed HF conditions on and off during March and April. If you headed for the IDXC in Visalia during April 17-19 you didn't miss many DX opportunities. The K-index had jumped to 6, again leaving a hail of noise across most of the HF bands. But other recent days had decent conditions at times, with 10-meters problematic.

As shown in the graph below, the ISES sunspot count dropped sharply in March and April to the mid and upper 30's—well under the 6-month moving average (dark blue line.) In previous solar cycles a sharp monthly drop below the downward moving average usually heralded further drops in sunspot counts, with slight upturns.

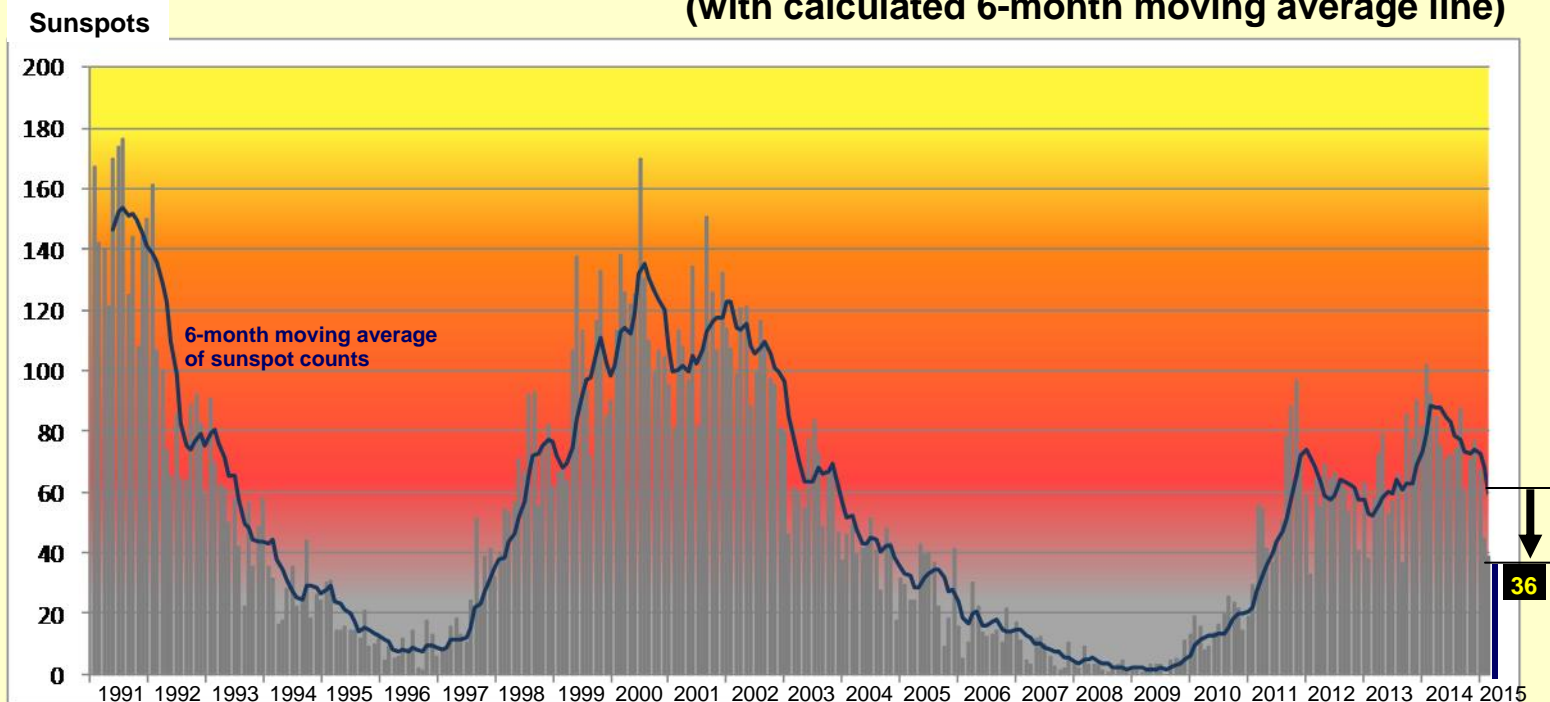
It's now largely accepted that Cycle 24's peak was February 2014, with Cycle 24 likely the weakest overall since Cycle 14 in 1906. Cycle 25 is frequently predicted to be even worse—there might well be a Maunder Minimum in our future. ♦

Solar-Terrestrial Data/Predictions at <a href="http://www.qrz.com">www.qrz.com</a>										
17 Apr 2015 0040 GMT			Current Solar		Band		Day		Night	
SFI	149	SN 085			80m-40n		Poor		Poor	
A	043	K 6			30m-20n		Poor		Poor	
XRY	B6.5	304A 158.6			17m-15n		Poor		Poor	
Aur	4	Lat 63.9°			12m-10n		Poor		Poor	
Bz	-2.5	SH 674.9			Geomag Field				MAJ STRM	
PF	0.1	EF 3.2			Sig Noise Lvl				S6-S9	
MUF	Bdr 23.57	@ 0010			CME (UTC)		None			
EME	Deg	Excellent			(C) P. Herrman N0NBH 2013					

Solar-Terrestrial Data/Predictions at <a href="http://www.qrz.com">www.qrz.com</a>										
18 Mar 2015 0100 GMT			Current Solar		Band		Day		Night	
SFI	116	SN 057			80m-40n	Poor	Poor			
A	117	K 8			30m-20n	Poor	Poor			
XRY	B9.2	304A 141.6			17m-15n	Poor	Poor			
Aur	10	Lat 51.0°			12m-10n	Poor	Poor			
Bz	-7.1	SW 569.5			Geomag Field		SEV STRM			
PF	0.2	EF 1.0			Sig Noise Lvl		S20+			
MUF	Bdr 19.01	@ 0035			CME (UTC)		None			
EME	Deg	Good							(C) P. Herrman N0NBH 2013	

**Have a nice day:** It's time to tackle other projects around the house when you see recent solar conditions like these on the [qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) home page. CREDITS: Screen shots from [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) website of solar-terrestrial data charts created by Paul Herrman, N0NBH.

## ISES Monthly Sunspot Counts, 1991-2015 (with calculated 6-month moving average line)



Graph design: Diana Feinberg, AI6DF, using ISES sunspot data from NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression>, with 6-month moving average line plotted. April 2015 monthly data not yet available.



## The 2015 SCDXC Board of Directors



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POSITIONS**



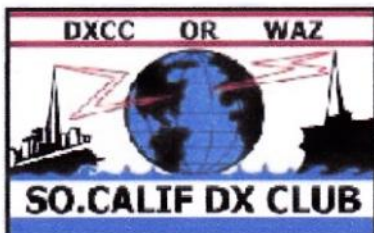
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**Editor, SCDXC Newsletter**  
**Diana Feinberg**  
**AI6DF**



## Southern California DX Club, Inc.

Membership Renewal [ ]

New Member Application [ ]

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (MM) \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Spouses Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (MM) \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Do not list in club directory

Work: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Do not list in club directory

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Do not list in club directory or web site

Have you confirmed 40 CQ Zones? Not yet: [ ], Yes [ ], I have a WAZ certificate: [ ].

Spouse? Not yet: [ ], Yes [ ], Has a WAZ certificate: [ ].

Have you confirmed 100 Countries? Not yet: [ ], Yes [ ], I have a DXCC certificate: [ ].

Spouse? Not yet: [ ], Yes [ ], Has a DXCC certificate: [ ].

Are you an ARRL Member? No: [ ] Yes: [ ] Life: [ ]

**Renewal Membership, Full or Associate - \$24.00 USD Per Calendar Year (Jan – Dec)**  
(Additional Family Members \$6.00 USD ea)

**Overseas / Supporting Membership - \$24.00 USD Per Calendar Year (Jan – Dec)**

**New Membership, All Types - \$2.00 Times the Number of Months Remaining in Year**  
(Example: Join in September, pay 4 x \$2.00 – Family Members @ additional 25%)

### **BADGES**

Small: (1.5"H X 2"W) [ ] Medium: (2"H X 3"W) [ ] Large: (3"H X 3.75"W) [ ]

\$12.00 USD ea including postage (to US addresses)

For badge shipping costs to overseas locations contact Mel Hughes, K6SY at [k6sy@scdxc.org](mailto:k6sy@scdxc.org).

**Make checks payable to Southern California DX Club or SCDXC**

**Mail Membership Fees and/or Badge Fees to:**

**Mel Hughes, K6SY, 28017 San Nicolas Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275**

### **For club use only**

Dues recvd by \_\_\_\_\_ Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Full Member [ ]

QSLs verified by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Member [ ]

DXCC \_\_\_\_\_ WAZ \_\_\_\_\_ Former Member \_\_\_\_\_ At-Large Member [ ]

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting Member [ ]





## HAMCON 2015

The ARRL 2015 Southwestern Division Convention returns to the Los Angeles area and explores Amateur Radio's second century.

**September 11-13, 2015**

### Explore, learn, and meet amateur radio's future

See what's new under the Sun at the largest ham radio convention in the Southwestern United States:

#### Four program tracks looking at the future

- Emergency Communication
- DXing and Long-Distance Communication
- Technical Topics
- Topics for New Hams

#### Win ham radio prizes

Every paid registered attendee receives four free door prize tickets and has an equal chance to win—no tickets will be sold.

#### 65-booth Vendor/Exhibitor Hall

See and purchase the latest in ham radio equipment, speak directly with many manufacturers and retailers.

**MEET  
FELLOW HAMS  
FROM ACROSS THE  
SOUTHWEST.**

*Early-bird registrations get free patch or pin with distinctive convention logo, shown above.*

Other things you can do at HAMCON 2015:

Operate ARRL station W1AW/6, participate in a "Fox Hunt," get initiated in the ARRL Wouff Hong, inspect emergency communication vehicles of area government-affiliated amateur radio groups, ARRL QSL checking, get licensed or upgrade at VE session.

Visit <http://www.hamconinc.org/> to register online, download a registration form, make special-rate hotel reservations, or get updated convention program information. Early-bird registration ends August 1, 2015.

### HOTEL INFORMATION



**The Torrance Marriott South Bay Hotel**  
3835 Fashion Way, Torrance, CA 90503

Our convention site is one of the area's top hotels. A special discounted \$119 per night rate (including free in-room high-speed internet and discounted \$5 per night parking) is available to HAMCON 2015 attendees. Online reservations at this special rate can only be made through Marriott's link on HAMCON's website, [www.hamconinc.org](http://www.hamconinc.org) then click on Hotel Reservations in the Main Menu. Or call Marriott at 1-800-228-9290 and say, "HAMCON Convention." Act now: This special rate is only available for reservations made by Aug. 15, 2015.

Yaesu FTdx5000.....	\$3,800	Bushnell Citation Insta Focus binoculars .....	\$ 15
Yaesu SM-5000 station monitor.....	\$ 275	Drill Master Cordless Drill with Flashlight 18V # 69652 .....	\$ 15
Yaesu Speaker & filters.....	\$ 100	Sony Infrared Receiver PCVA-IR8U .....	\$ 5
Yaesu DMU-2000 data management unit.....	\$ 725	HP 20" Flatscreen LCD W2071D with LED backlight .....	\$ 75
Ameritron AL-80B with Grid overload protection Board.....	\$1,050	Viewsonic 19" LCD flatscreen VX1962WM .....	\$ 100
Yaesu FT-2000D.....	\$2,200	Western Digital "My Book Essential" external 3 TB hard drive ..	\$ 75
Yaesu MH31B8 Microphone.....	\$ 45	RT Systems USB-63 (USB to DB9 interface cable) .....	\$ 15
Yaesu SP-2000 External Speaker.....	\$ 100	Shaxon USB 2.0 AM-AF cable – 6 ft - .....	\$ 2
Yaesu Remote Control Keypad.....	\$ 65	I dot connect USB 3.0 AM-AM cable – 10 ft - .....	\$ 5
Yaesu FP-2000 power supply.....	\$ 350	Sabrent USB – floppy disk drive Model SBT-UFDB .....	\$ 10
Yaesu FT-301D .....	\$ 150	Diamond multimedia Wireless-N USB adapter .....	\$ 15
Yaesu FP-301 power supply .....	\$ 50		
Kenwood TS-850S .....	\$ 650		
Kenwood SP-31 Speaker .....	\$ 50		
Drake R4B and MS-4 Speaker .....	\$ 230		
Drake R4C and MS-4 Speaker .....	\$ 370		
Astron RS-12A .....	\$ 50		
Astron RS-50A .....	\$ 200		
Timewave DSP-59+ .....	\$ 175		
Hallicrafter S82 FM 30-50 MHz receiver .....	\$ 50		
Vertex MLS-100 mobile speaker .....	\$ 45		
GE 40 channel CB radio station Help 34-5908, 4 watts .....	\$ 40		
Palstar AT-2K antenna tuner .....	\$ 400		
Dentron Jr. antenna tuner .....	\$ 40		
Dentron Super Super antenna tuner AT-3KW (10-160M) .....	\$ 175		
MFJ 945-D antenna tuner (30-300W) .....	\$ 60		
LDG memory tuner AT-200-Pro (5-200W) 6-160M .....	\$ 150		
MFJ 1700-C 6 position antenna switch / surge protector .....	\$ 60		
Heil Headset with microphone .....	\$ 100		
Sony Stereo Headphones MDR-V700 .....	\$ 200		
Telex C-1320 headset (20 ohm) .....	\$ 30		
Telex C-610 headset (16 ohm) .....	\$ 30		
MFJ-392B headset .....	\$ 15		
Coby Headphones CV-195 noise cancelling .....	\$ 35		
MFJ 462B multi-reader .....	\$ 100		
Signalink-Tigertronics Radio Interface & Sound card			
w/ Yaesu cable .....	\$ 60		
Heathkit HO 1416 code practice oscillator .....	\$ 20		
QSA-805 Dynamic microphone .....	\$ 100		
Labtec AM-22 microphone .....	\$ 4		
Panasonic microphone .....	\$ 4		
Astatic D-104 with T-UGB stand .....	\$ 75		
Astatic DN-HZ microphone .....	\$ 145		
GE regulated Power Supply Model 5-1210, 13.8V – 2.5A .....	\$ 40		
P3 International Kill A Watt Electronic usage monitor .....	\$ 10		
Yaesu – YSK-7800, Separation Kit .....	\$ 6		
Vertex Standard CT-119 programming cable .....	\$ 30		
Pace P-5453 dual meter (SWR, Field strength,).....	\$ 5		
Micronta triple meter (SWR, Field strength, modulation) 21-522 .....	\$ 25		
Tektronix Oscilloscope T-922 .....	\$ 150		
Alliance dual speed rotator controller .....	\$ 28		
Cushcraft MA-5 B antenna .....	\$ 250		
Cushcraft R-7 Vertical .....	\$ 100		
Rohn Tubular mast .....	\$		
Ronard "Y" type chimney mount No. 15-1218 .....	\$ 15		
Polyester antenna rope 100 ft 3/32" .....	\$ 8/ea		
Longines Symphonic Portable Short Wave radio .....	\$ 25		
Grundig 4070 U AM/FM/Short Wave radio (circa 1964) .....	\$ 200		
Harbor Freight 580 Pc terminal set .....	\$ 5		
Guardian camp lantern GN-60115 with AM/FM radio .....	\$ 10		
Osaka Koha Voltage adjuster Model IV-300N .....	\$		

## Estate Sale

This list of treasures is from a ham estate. Most of these items are like new...the owner was a shopper and collector but not an operator.

Are there new homes for this equipment?

If interested in purchasing any item please contact Arnie Shatz, N6HC at:

[n6hc@aol.com](mailto:n6hc@aol.com)

or call 714-573-2965.

Thanks,

Arnie, N6HC





## Western Amateur Radio Association

### **NOW OFFERING AMATEUR RADIO VE TESTING SESSIONS**

**Contact V.E. George T. Jacob Jr. N6VNI**

**Phone Numbers: Home Phone: 562/691-7898 Cell Phone: 562/544-7373**

**Email: [jac2247@gmail.com](mailto:jac2247@gmail.com) Or [N6VNI@arri.net](mailto:N6VNI@arri.net)**

**Sponsoring Club: N6ME Western Amateur Radio Association,  
Fullerton, Ca. "WARA"**

**Test site location:**

**La Habra Community Center.**

**101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631**

**Date and Times - Third Thursday of every month, @ 6 P.M. unless otherwise noted. Pre-Registration is requested and preferred. Walk-ins are welcome.**

### **2015 TESTING SESSIONS**

**Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6 p.m. NOTE: Location change –this date only  
(Home of George N6VNI, 1901 W. El Portal Drive, La Habra, CA 90631)**

**Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 6 p.m. NOTE: Location change – this date only  
(Home of George N6VNI, 1901 W. El Portal Drive, La Habra, CA 90631)**

**Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6 p.m..**

**Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6 p.m.**

### **On Exam Day Bring the Following Items**

- A legal photo ID (driver's license, passport) or Two forms of non-photo ID; e.g., birth certificate, social security card, library card, utility bill or other business correspondence with name of the examinee as it appears on the Form 605 and current mailing address.
- Your Social Security Number (SSN) or FCC-issued Federal Registration Number (FRN).
- If applicable, the original and a photocopy of your current Amateur Radio license and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) you may have from previous exam session. (Photocopies will not be returned.)
- Two number two pencils with erasers, and a pen.
- A calculator with memory erased and formulas cleared (no iPhones, iPads, etc.).
- Test Fee: \$15.00 (cash or check).

If you fail an element and wish to retake it, we are required to charge an additional test fee. If you pass an element, we typically offer and encourage you to take the next element. We do not charge an additional test fee for this and it gives you the opportunity to see what the next exam element is like!



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